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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/670,538	09/25/2003	Mohan Gurunathan	10021209-1	5460

7590 11/15/2006

AGILENT TECHNOLOGIES, INC.
Legal Department, DL429
Intellectual Property Administration
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Loveland, CO 80537-0599

EXAMINER

LEE, HWA S

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2877

DATE MAILED: 11/15/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/670,538

Applicant(s)

GURUNATHAN ET AL.

Examiner

Andrew Hwa S. Lee

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 22 August 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 5/24/06
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Remarks

1. The information disclosure statement (IDS) submitted on 8/22/06 has been considered by the examiner. In view of the recent Interim Guidelines on Patent Eligible Subject Matter, claims 12-17 are subject to a new rejection. The previous rejection under van Deventer is corrected to be rejected under van Deventer's Optics Letter rather than the US Patent.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

2. 35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

Claims 12-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter.

The claims are directed to a judicial exception; as such, pursuant to the Interim Guidelines on Patent Eligible Subject Matter (MPEP 2106), the claims must have either physical transformation and/or a useful, concrete and tangible result. The claims fail to include transformation from one physical state to another. Although, the claims appear useful and concrete, there does not appear to be a tangible result claimed. Merely determining the spectral content would not appear to be sufficient to constitute a tangible result, since the outcome of the determining step has not been used in a disclosed practical application nor made available in

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such a manner that its usefulness in a disclosed practical application can be realized. As such, the subject matter of the claims is not patent eligible.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Okoshi et al. (US 5,146,359) in view of van Deventer et al. (Optics Letters).

With regards to claims 1, 7, and 18, Okoshi et al. (Okoshi hereinafter) show a double stage phase diversity receiver comprising:

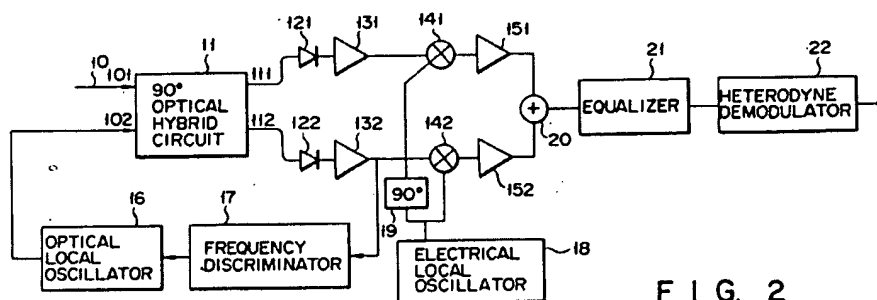


FIG. 2

an optical hybrid (11) for combining said optical signal and an optical local oscillator signal to generate phase-diverse components;

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a plurality of photodiodes (121, 122) with each photodetector illuminated by a respective one of said phase-diverse components thereby mixing said optical signal and said optical local oscillator;

a plurality of mixers (141, 142) for mixing said filtered signals from said plurality of bandpass filters with an electrical LO signal; and

a signal processing module (22) that determines said spectral content utilizing signals from said plurality of mixers.

Okoshi does not expressly show the filters.

van Deventer et al. (van Deventer hereinafter) show an optical hybrid having a plurality of bandpass filters (BPF in the figures). At the time of the invention, one of ordinary skill in the art would have used bandpass filters to pass only the desired frequency range, thus block unwanted frequencies which can be considered as noise.

With regards to claims 2, 3, 19, and 20 please see column 5, lines 28+.

With regards to claims 4, please see column 9, lines 52+.

With regards to claims 6, please see amplifiers (131,132) and also van Deventer shows motivation for using amplifiers in the abstract.

With regards to claim 8, the detectors are arranged serially with amplifiers in between and node (20) between the photodetectors.

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With regards to claim 9 and 10, please see van Deventer's Figs 1 and 2.

With regards to claim 11, the use of bulk optical components (free space optical elements) are well known functional equivalents and one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention would have used bulk optics for lower cost.

3. With regards to claims 12 and 15, Okoshi show a double stage phase diversity receiver comprising the steps of:

providing said optical signal (101) and an optical local oscillator signal (102) to inputs of an optical hybrid to generate phase-diverse components;

photodetecting (121, 122) said phase-diverse components thereby mixing said optical signal with said LO;

mixing (141, 142) said filtered signals with an electrical LO signal; and

determining (22) a spectral content of said optical signal utilizing signals from said mixing.

Okoshi does not expressly show the filtering.

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van Deventer shows an optical hybrid having a plurality of bandpass filters (BPF) and a lock-in amplifier. At the time of the invention, one of ordinary skill in the art would have used bandpass filters to pass only the desired frequency range, thus block unwanted frequencies which can be considered as noise.

With regards to claims 13, please see column 5, lines 28+.

With regards to claim 14, please see amplifiers (131,132) and also van Deventer shows motivation for using amplifiers.

With regards to claim 16, the detectors would be arranged serially with amplifiers in between and node (20) between the photodetectors.

With regards to claim 17, please see van Deventer's Figs 1 and 2.

Conclusion

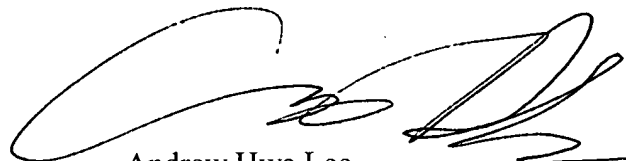
Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Andrew Hwa S. Lee whose telephone number is 571-272-2419. The examiner can normally be reached on Tue-Fr.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Gregory J. Toatley Jr. can be reached on 571-272-2800 ext 77. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andrew Hwa Lee', is positioned above the printed name.

Andrew Hwa Lee
Primary Examiner
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